There is no case of fire continuing in any mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). State-wise break-up of mines under CIL where fire is persisting is an under:—

State	No. of mines where fire exists
Bihar	*50*
West Bengal	15
Maharashtra	3
Madhya Pradesh	5
Orissa	1
	74

(b) Number of fatalities of mine workers in the underground mines of CIL and SCCL during the last five years on account of fire, waterlogging or other accidents are as under:—

Year	No. of fatalities due to		
	Fire	Water logging	Other accidents
1991	—	—	95
1992	—	—	133
1993	3	—	115
1994	55	—	124
1995	—	77	92

(c) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc, are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps, Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels, training and retraining of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards.

(d) Though there is no group insurance scheme for non-executive workers of CIL, they are covered under Life Cover Scheme of the National Coal Wage Agreement—V. In SCCL, the following insurance schemes are in operation:—

(a) Janta Personal Accident Insurance Scheme;

(b) Group Insurance Scheme;

(c) Family Benefit Insurance Scheme and

(d) Group Grameena Personal Insurance Scheme.

Royalty Rates for Different Ores

2199. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering enhancement of royalty rates to States for different ores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Mines constituted a Study Group to consider the existing rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) and to recommend to the Government, *inter-alia*, rates of royalty which would be conducive to rapid development of the mineral sector.

The Study Group after due deliberations and consultations with the State Governments and other concerned has submitted its Report to the Central Government. The salient recommendations of the Study Group include rationalisation of royalty rates and enlargement of the scope of ad-valorem basis for royalty rates.